

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Wilson, John Silvanus, Jr., 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr.,
Dates:	August 27, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:44:54).
Abstract:	College president and academic administrator John Silvanus Wilson, Jr. (1957-) was an academic administrator for twenty eight years before becoming the eleventh president of Morehouse College. Wilson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 27, 2019, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_096
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

College president and academic administrator John Silvanus Wilson, Jr. was born on August 16, 1957 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Genester Millicent Nix and John Silvanus Wilson, Sr. He received his B.A. degree in business administration and management from Morehouse College in 1979. In 1981, Wilson earned his M.T.S. degree from Harvard Divinity School. He then attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he earned his Ed.M. degree in education in 1982, and his Ed.D. degree in education in 1985.

Wilson began his career in 1985 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he served as an associate in the analytical studies and planning group in the office of the president. In that role, he conducted research for a report on the experiences of African American students at MIT. He then shifted to financial management and fundraising, serving first in corporate development and, ultimately, as director of foundation relations by 1994. He was an officer in two major capital campaigns at MIT, with goals of \$700 million and \$2 billion. In 2001, he moved from MIT to The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. During his eight-year career there, Wilson served as senior assistant vice president from September to December 2001, executive dean of the Virginia campus from 2002 to 2006, and associate professor at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development from 2007 to 2009. He was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in 2009, where he remained until 2013. From January 2013 to April 2017, Wilson served as the eleventh president of Morehouse College. He moved to Harvard University as a president in residence at the School of Education, where he began research for a book about the future of American higher education, with an emphasis on HBCUs. In April 2018, Wilson was appointed as senior advisor and strategist to the president of Harvard University.

Wilson has served on multiple boards, including Spelman College and Harvard University. He has received various awards for his work in higher education, including the 1998 Bennie Leadership Award presented by Morehouse College, *Ebony* magazine's Power 100 Award in 2014, and the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*'s 100 Most Influential

Atlantans Award in 2015.

Wilson and his wife, Carol Espy-Wilson, have three adult children: twin daughters, Ayana and Ashia, and son, John Silvanus Wilson, III.

John Silvanus Wilson, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 27, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr. was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 27, 2019, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. College president and academic administrator John Silvanus Wilson, Jr. (1957-) was an academic administrator for twenty eight years before becoming the eleventh president of Morehouse College.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Wilson, John Silvanus, Jr., 1957-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Wilson, John Silvanus, Jr., 1957---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

College President

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., August 27, 2019. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_001, TRT: 1:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_002, TRT: 2:30:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_003, TRT: 3:31:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_004, TRT: 4:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_005, TRT: 5:30:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_006, TRT: 6:30:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_007, TRT: 7:32:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_008, TRT: 8:29:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_009, TRT: 9:26:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John Silvanus Wilson, Jr., Section A2019_096_001_010, TRT: 10:15:53 ?